

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00718 302026Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /056 W

----- 099755

R 301920Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9750

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0718

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJ: RUMORS OF MAJOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT

REF: BA 0576

1. THERE HAVE BEEN AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF RUMORS DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT. SPECULATION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED OFF PRIMARILY BY 1) MRS. PERON'S UNEXPECTED MOVE LAST WEEK FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL RESORT AT CHAPADMALAL, WHERE SHE WAS SPENDING A WORKING VACATION, TO A NAVAL BASE NEAR MAR DEL PLATA, AND 2) FACT THAT THE NATIONAL NOTARY PUBLIC, OR SCRIBE, IS WITH HER. ONE RUMOR HAS IT THAT MRS. PERON TRIED TO FIRE LOPEZ REGA AND THAT HE THEN ABUSED AND THREATENED HER, THUS PROMPTING HER TO MOVE TO NAVAL BASE WHERE SHE HAD PROTECTION OF NAVY CINC ADMIRAL MASSERA, IN WHOM SHE OBVIOUSLY HAS GREAT CONFIDENCE. STILL OTHER RUMORS ATTRIBUTE MOVE TO SECURITY REASONS (ERP HAD PENETRATED CHAPADMALAL), TO POOR COMMUNICATIONS AT CHAPADMALAL, ETC. STILL OTHERS HAVE IT THAT MRS. PERON HERSELF IS PREPARING TO RESIGN.

2. OBVIOUSLY, MAJORITY OF THESE RUMORS ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION, OR, AT LEAST, ARE EXAGGERATIONS. BUT THERE IS A FEELING EVEN AMONG BALANCED, KNOWLEDGABLE POLITICAL OBSERVERS THAT SOMETHING IS IN THE WIND. THERE IS ALWAYS POSSIBILITY OF ROUTINE CABINET CHANGES (E.G. OTERO OUT), WHICH WOULD IN THEMSELVES EXPLAIN THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00718 302026Z

PRESENCE OF THE NATIONAL SCRIBE. FURTHER, LABOR LEADERS CASILDO

HERRERAS AND LORENZO MIGUEL SAW PRESIDENT YESTERDAY (JAN 29) NAD MAY WELL HAVE PRESSED HARD FOR REMOVAL OF COMMERCE SECY ALLOATTI, WITH SHOM CGT IS FEUDING. CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CGT AND ECON MINISTER GOMEZ MORALES OVER THIS AND OTHER ISSUES APPEARS TO BE BUILDING. NONE OF THESE POSSIBILITIES HOWEVER WOULD SATISFACTORILY EXPLAIN THE MOVE FROM CHAPADMALA. CERTAINLY, INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA'S EXPLANATION YESTERDAY (I.E. THAT SHE HAD MOVED THERE TO FIND GREATER TRANQUILITY) RAISES MORE QUESTIONS THAN IT ANSWERS. SHE COULD NOT BUT HAVE HAD MORE PRIVACY AT CHAPADMALAL THAN AT NAVAL BASE, WHICH ADJOINS CROWDED PUBLIC BEACH.

3. MANY OBSERVERS ARE CONVINCED THAT QUESTION OF LOPEZ REGA'S POSITION IN GOVERNMENT IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED. EMBASSY HAS NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS THE CASE. AFP REPORT FROM SPAIN JAN 28 QUOTING GEN FRANCO'S SISTER AS SAYING LOPEZ REGA IS A HATED POWER-HUNGRY RASPUTIN IS INTERSTING IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT PILAR FRANCO WOULD HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT APROOPOS OF NOTHING. SHE HAS WIDE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS AND CONTACTS IN PERONIST MOVEMENT, AND WE HAVE LITTLE DOUBT BUT THAT ATTACK ON LOPEZ REGA WAS INSPIRED BY ONE OF THEM. IF SO, THIS, ALONG WITH BALBIN REMARKS OF JAN 23, REPORT THAT ARMED FORCES COMMANDERS HAD RAISED ISSUE, AND STRONG STATEMENT FROM UCR SECRETARY ENRIQUE VANOLI JAN 29 CRITICIZING CREATION OF "SUPERSECRETARIAT" (READ, LOPEZ REGA), WOULD SUGGEST THAT A CONCERTED EFFORT AGAINST LOPEZ REGA IS BEING LAUNCHED. EVEN IF THAT IS THE CASE, HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN LATTER IS ON THE WAY OUT. SO FAR, HE HAS MANAGED TO STAY ONE STEP AHEAD OF HIS DETRACTORS. NONETHELESS, CRITICISM FROM A FIGURE SUCH AS PILAR FRANCO, WHO IS IDENTIFIED IN THE PUBLIC MIND AS AN OLD AND HONORED FRIEND OF GENERAL PERON'S, CANNOT BE SHRUGGED OFF LIGHTLY BY LOPEZ REGA.

4. WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS ANY FIRE BENEATH THE HEAVY SMOKE CREATED BY THE LATEST SPATE OF RUMORS (AND EMBASSY IS ENDEAVORING TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS), THE NATURE AND RAPIDITY WITH WHICH THE RUMORS ARE ACCEPTED REFLECT FACT THAT MRS. PERON'S SUPPORT IS ERODING AND ERODING RAPIDLY. AS UCR'S VANOLI PUT IT YESTERDAY, MANNER IN WHICH GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONDUCTING ITSELF MAKES IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR UCR TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT IT. MILITARY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 00718 302026Z

TOO, IS BECOMING DISENCHANGED AND LABOR UNIONS ARE BEGINNING TO ASSERT THEMSELVES INCREASINGLY AT EXPENSE OF POLITICAL WING OF THE PERONIST MOVEMENT, AND TO SOME EXTENT AT EXPENSE OF GOVERNMENT. SITUATION IS THUS BEING CREATED IN WHICH SOME KIND OF CHANGE SEEMS LOGICAL, WHETHER IT BE CABINET SHAKEUP OR SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS; HENCE, RUMORS SUCH AS THOSE OF PAST FEW DAYS LIKELY TO BECOME RECURRING PART OF POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.
HILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS00718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750035-0632
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975018/aaaaagko.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BA 0576
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUMORS OF MAJOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AR, (PERON, MARIA ESTELA), (LOPEZ REGA, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006